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FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTING COMMISSION ARTISTIC EVENTS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2011

The IPC Artistic Events Committee (Freestyle Skydiving & Freeflying) had several activities this year. You will find a summary below.

Competition Rules

Proposed changes to the competition rules 2010 were discussed and accepted at the IPC Plenary Meeting 2011 in Bar, Montenegro. There was quite a big change in the structure of the freeflying competition rules with the suppression of the so-called speed rounds. Furthermore, in both disciplines the scoring of the compulsories was changed to an order of 4 compulsories as decided by the team, plus an extra scoring element on how these compulsories were put together in the jumps. Overall, the changes were well received. That said, some teams would have liked the speed rounds to continue. However, the committee decided against that, whilst it could be an option for a VFS 2-way event.

8th Worldcup / 7th EPC Saarlouis, Germany 2011

This competition, august 1-7, was well attended, although mostly by European nations. Cost was mentioned as a prohibiting factor, as were training schedules. In total, there were 9 teams in freeflying from 6 nations and 8 teams freestyle from 5 nations. A total of 17 artistic event teams and 43 athletes. This is lower than the 12010 WPC but expected for a Continental Championships. The competition was well organised and the 2 artistic events were fully completed.

There were however some remarks voiced during the open meeting which was conducted by Elisabet Mikaelsson. The report from this meeting at the end of this annual report. Parts of it can be seen in the proposals for changes and discussion items for the competition rules 2012, in this agenda.

Vertical Formation Skydiving (VFS), influence on AE attendance

VFS had its 4th year as official event. As noticed in my report over 2010, the level of performance in VFS is really high and still rising, but the number of teams attending is not. In fact, it seems there are less teams. That said, at the 2011 AE event in Saarlouis there were quite a lot of teams, including new teams as many had stopped competing after the WPC in 2010. So, so far we can cautiously conclude that a negative influence of VFS on AE seems improbable.

Teamwork with the Committee

My appreciation goes to the current members and advisers of the AE Committee for their time and work: Deputy Elisabet Mikaelsson (Sweden), members Niels-Christian Levin Hansen (Denmark), Ray Williams (Australia), Sylvia Wagner (Austria), Stéphane Fardel (France) Phillipe Schorno (France) and Alya Ananina (Russia). The committee is always welcoming new members to join the committee.

Ronald Overdijk
Chairman IPC Artistic Events Committee

Barendrecht, November 25th, 2011

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ARTISTIC COMPETITORS MEETING

Saarlouis - Düren, Germany, 5th. August 2011

Chaired by Elisabet Petterson (of Sweden). AE Committee Members: Alia Ananina (Russia) - Silvia Wagner (Austria) - Ray Williams (Australia). In attendance: 44 total.

1. Comments of this competition: what competitors liked and what they did not like.

Competitors did not like set up of the DZ (too big distances to walk from competitor tents to boarding area, to the rest rooms, to the lunch room etc.).

Public Address System (PA) not always effective.

2. Competitors were asked if they were treated equally with FS event.

Generally, yes, except that the percentage of the jumps and judging translation on the public viewing screen were distorted in favor of the Formation Skydiving Events.

Also, while AE judging translation on the public viewing screen, there were very large pauses between team performance and scores. And there was only freeze frame. Instead at this time other jumps could be shown on the screen.

Another concern, whilst knowing the weather forecast for the week, AE event were not started until 12:00 hrs on the first day (the only day with ideal weather conditions).

The pilots were changing the direction of flights even when the teams were standing in the door preparing for set-up and exit. Also, even if there was a blue sky hole in the clouds, pilots would turn and drop the competitors in the clouds (as were several Formation Skydiving teams).

3. Current competition rules.

Freestyle: in general, teams were happy with the rules but here were voices to get rid of FR-3, the Straddle Backstop (Cradle) Sequence, as a compulsory move.

Overall, the competitors liked the new style of compulsories and found it more to be more fun.

Freefly: There were voices wanting to re-introduce the speed rounds, in addition to the current two (2) compulsories rounds. Maybe make eight (8) competition rounds. (Free x 4, Speed x 2, Compulsory x 2), although a show of hands did not support the idea of speed rounds.

In the current compulsories, competitors think that the 'presentation' criteria offers too little rewarded (20% of the dive). Elisabet's suggestion for the judging compulsories – to make it as a two criteria evaluation: 'technical' and 'presentation' (50/50), where 'technical' refers only to the 'execution' of the compulsory moves.

Elisabet asked if four (4) compulsory moves per routine is the optimal number, the answer is positive. Some competitors raised the question as to what measures the judges were going to undertake to educate themselves to the new rules before the next World Championships? The Chair responded by advising the audience that there will be a training course on the internet, available for everyone.

Competitors expressed their wish, that before judging Round #1, judges are able to view all teams once prior to official judgment of two additional views (if requested). The aim is to assess the initial range. It was pointed out that a similar modus operandi was undertaken by Roland Hartmann (EJ) at the World Championships in Gera (and that had the desired effect). It was also suggested that Rounds 2 & 5 might follow the same protocol.